DUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). It was reported that deep sea fishing industry faced difficulties during the last three to four years due to poor shrimp catch, fall in the price of shrimp in the international market, increased cost of operation, and agitation by a section of crew. In order to improve the situation, a scheme for rehabilitation of sick deep sea fishing units was announced by Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) in April, 1991.

[*Translation*]

Air Services between Delhi and Allahabad

7059. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air services between Delhi and Allahabad are not regular and have been suspended recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether the Government propose to resume the said air services;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Due to capcacity constraints, Indian Airlines had withdrawn its services between Delhi and Allahabad.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the schedule effective from 15.4.92, Indian Airlines has reintroduced twice weekly B-737 service between Delhi and Allhabad

(e) Does not arise.

Registration of Small Newspapers of Banaskantha District in Gujarat

7060. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of application received from Banskantha district of Gujarat from small newspapers for registration during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such newspapers registered during the said period; and

(c) the time by which the remaining newspapers will be registered?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) A total of 15 applications were received for registration during the last three years- 10 in 1989, one in 1990 and 4 in 1991.

(b) and (c). Five of the 15 newspapers in respect of which applications have been received have already been registered. Discrepancies in respect of the other 10 applications have been pointed out to the publishers. They can be registered only after the publishers complete the formalities required by the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

[*English*]

Replacement of Old Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

7061. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of obsolete strowger MAX-II electo-mechanical telephone exchanges working in Karnataka;

(b) whether telephone service has suffered on account of these obsolete equipments;

(c) the plan of the Government for replacement by electronic exchanges; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be replaced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are seven MAX-II type strowger Electro-Mechnical exchanges working in Karnataka.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and(d). The proposed plan for replacement is given below:-

- 2500 lines in three exchanges during 1992-93.

-2200 lines in four exchanges during 1993-94.

Solar Power Plant in Jodhpur

7062. SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Rajasthan Energy development Agency for setting up a 30 MW power plant based on solar energy at Mathania in Jodhpur district in Rajathan;

(b) if so, the present stage of the said project;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan have also requested to the Union Government to hand over this project to a Government undertaking like the NIPC;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir. The government had received a dfesiblity report for setting up a 300 MW Solar Thermal Power at Methania in Jodhpur District from Rajasthan Energy Development Agency in November, 1988. The proposed technology was based on Parabolic Trough Collectors.

(b) The planning commission while reviewing the feasibility report pointed out some missing sub-system details which are required for operational angle and also the lower cost of the systems which required to be revised and updated. Subsequent to these comments the department constituted a working group with members from Central Electricity Authority, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Deptt. of Power, Department of Non-Conventional Energy sources, Planning Commission, Rajasthan Energy Development Agency and Rajasthan State Electricity Board. The working group submitted its report in October, 1990, which was sent to Rajasthan Energy Development Agency with a suggestion that the feasibility report may be revised accordingly. The revised feasibility report was received by the department in May, 1991. The proposal was then sent to Central Electricity Authority for statutory techno-economic clearance. The comments of Central Electricity Authority were received in December, 1991.

(c) to (e). As per the comments of the Central Electricity Authority a Solar Thermal Power Plant of 30 MW capacity on the suggested technology may prove to be highly capital intensive and economically un-vi-